



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

June 05, 2015

Ms. Peggy Hatch  
Secretary  
Louisiana Dept of Environmental Quality  
Office of the Secretary  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4301

Dear Secretary Hatch:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering proposing the SBA Shipyard (SBA) site in Jennings, Louisiana, on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL), pursuant to its authority under Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9605. The NPL contains a list of priority sites with releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants that require evaluation for possible remediation. It is EPA's policy to determine the state's position on sites that EPA is considering placing on the NPL. With this letter, EPA is seeking the concurrence of the State of Louisiana on adding the SBA Shipyard site to the NPL.

The SBA site is located at 9040 Castex Landing Road, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana. The 98 acre property is located at the end of State Highway 3166 and adjacent to the west bank of the Mermentau River approximately 2.3 miles southwest (downstream) of Mermentau, Louisiana. SBA used the location for construction, repair, retrofitting and cleaning of barges from 1965 to 1999. Barges serviced by SBA typically held diesel, coal tar, creosote, crude oil, gasoline and asphalt. Three barge slips and a dry dock are located off the Mermentau River. The slips were used to dock barges during cleaning or repair. The site was referred to EPA by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in September 2012 due to active releases of hazardous materials from an abandoned barge into the Mermentau River, to which the Coast Guard responded. A Preliminary Assessment, Site Inspection and Expanded Site Inspection have been completed at this site.


The site is scheduled to be proposed to the NPL in September 2015, based on evidence that hazardous substances including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from former barge cleaning operations have migrated from the facility to underlying ground water, adjacent wetlands and nearby surface waters. There are documented fisheries located in downstream waters. Without remediation of the site releases will continue to impact ground water and downstream surface waters.

EPA is committed to working cooperatively with the state and local community throughout the listing and subsequent Superfund cleanup process, and to ensuring that EPA's actions are conducted in an open and transparent manner. For a fund-financed remedial action prior to initiation of the remedial action, EPA and the state will collaborate in the development of a superfund state contract to provide the state assurances required by CERCLA, including, for example, the state's statutory cost share for the remedial action and assumption of operation and maintenance responsibilities. For federal facilities placed on the NPL, the process is slightly different. Where appropriate, a state may enter into a three-party enforceable agreement with the responsible federal entity and EPA to establish respective roles and responsibilities.

EPA is requesting a written response to this letter from your Governor's office or from the State Environmental Agency by July 10, 2015. EPA has set this date to allow adequate time to meet the proposed rule schedule. The response letter should indicate whether the state supports placement of the site on the NPL. If the state does not support listing, the state should describe the alternative approach to placement on the NPL that will ensure the identified priority site and associated release(s) will be addressed. EPA will be sharing information with the community regarding the state's position, including posting the information on the internet. EPA will also invite the LDEQ to participate in any community meetings during the listing process.

We will continue to work closely with and seek input from the state as the listing process proceeds. We appreciate your consideration of this matter. If additional information is needed or you would like to meet to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (214) 665-6701, or have your staff, call Brenda Nixon Cook, Region 6 NPL Coordinator, at (214) 665-7436.

Sincerely,

  
for Carl Edlund  
Director  
Superfund Division

CC: Mr. Chance McNeely, LDEQ  
Mr. Gary A. Fulton, Jr, LDEQ  
Mr. John Halk, LDEQ  
Ms. Terry Jeng, EPA-OSRTI